



## **Media Release by the Motor Schools Association**

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### *Improve your driving and save fuel*

The Motor Schools Association has today issued its Top Tips for driver improvement, which has the additional benefit of saving fuel.

With the rising cost of fuel and servicing, on top of increasing insurance costs, drivers are becoming all the more mindful of the expense of running a car and by focusing on better driving, there are good savings to be had.

John Lepine, the MSA's General Manager, said: "A few driver improvements will quickly lead to better, less stressful driving and fuel savings at the same time. Eco driving is about two things: safety and economy. All too often, people only associate eco issues with the ozone, whereas there are great economic reasons for adopting eco safe driving. We have issued our top tips for drivers but our research has shown that just implementing three or four of those habits extensive savings could be had".

Amongst other things, in its Top Tips, the MSA advises looking well ahead; moving your eyes often and spotting problems early. All of this will lead to more sympathetic driving, save fuel and be safer for the driver, passengers and other road users.

Mr Lepine continues: "We have done much research of late and one of the most interesting figures, when it comes to saving money, is the amount of fuel that can be saved by driving at a constant speed, not exceeding the speed limit and avoiding jerky or harsh movements. Reducing the speed at which you drive, where it safe to do can also save considerable fuel".

#### **For further information contact:**

John Lepine General Manager MSA – 0161 429 9669

#### **Editors note:**

The MSA was founded in 1935 as a representative body for driving instructors and driving school owners and is the voice for around 6,400 instructors.

The MSA has consultative status with the Driving Standards Agency (an executive agency of the Department for Transport)

MSA lobbies on behalf of its members and campaigns for better road safety.

# The MSA's Top Eco Tips

## ***Look well ahead***

The first rule of eco-driving is to look well ahead. The earlier you see something the better prepared you are and the less harsh you will be with the car!

## ***Plan your journey***

Always plan your journey and use the most direct route. Try to avoid rush hour or other busy driving times.

## ***Avoid harsh or jerky actions when driving***

Avoid using excessive acceleration, particularly when in low gears; harsh, late or sudden braking or jerky movements when steering. In fact avoid any action that will throw extra weight onto any side or corner of the car, as this will use more fuel and be less safe.

## ***Use the cars safety and eco controls***

If your car has cruise control then use it where appropriate, particularly on long straight roads such as motorways. If your car has start-stop technology keep it activated.

## ***Speed limits***

Adhere to speed limits and use the highest possible gear for the conditions and avoid using unnecessary gears when changing up or down.

## ***Reducing load and drag***

Remove unnecessary boot luggage and even think about only half filling the fuel tank if you are not doing long journeys. Avoid using roof-racks unless absolutely necessary or driving with the windows down – both of these increase the drag on the vehicle. Bear in mind that using the air conditioning will also increase fuel consumption.

## ***Maintenance***

Make sure that you service the car regularly and ensure that all consumables are regularly checked.

## ***Tyres***

Ensure that tyre pressures are kept at the correct level of inflation. Check the handbook as some manufacturers will have eco-inflation figures.

## ***Reversing***

Reversing using a cold engine uses more fuel than a warm engine. When parking in a space or going onto your drive, reverse in so that you can drive forwards when leaving again.

## ***Avoid coasting***

Coasting, or driving without a gear engaged or the clutch down, does not save fuel and can be dangerous!